17 June 2014 - The Met Office launches new, specialist meteorology training courses for energy sector professionals.

From unexpected heatwaves, to snow and ice interrupting maintenance schedules, the weather has a significant impact on energy companies' operations. Being able to understand, interpret and analyse weather information is a huge asset to ensure the smooth running of an energy company.

The Met Office now offers two separate courses for the energy industry, energy generation and energy distribution.

Met Office Energy Generation Course

Variations in the weather can have a marked effect on power station operations. From access issues to high level maintenance delays caused by strong winds or lightning, the consequences can prove very costly.

This course for personnel within the energy generation industry includes a core module covering weather regimes and weather fronts, as well as weather hazards, oceanography and climate change. It is designed to help employees better understand and interpret meteorological information, enabling them to optimise maintenance, operations and safety.

Met Office Energy Distribution Course

Specially designed for the energy distribution industry, this course improves understanding of weather and climate, and how it impacts upon energy distribution. It includes a range of modules such as understanding winds, space weather and weather hazards.

Understanding of weather regimes or air mass types is vital for energy distribution. An air mass may cover a large area and persist for several days. The conditions each air mass brings varies - some bring bitterly cold temperatures that can cause line icing, others can bring clusters of thunderstorms, making maintenance routines difficult to manage.

The impacts of weather can prove very costly, however it is possible to lessen the effects of some risks. For instance, equipment or work schedules can be adapted to reduce the expected exposure. Having a better understanding of the causes and impacts of the weather, together with how the forecasts are produced and their strengths and limitations will help inform both planning and mitigation activities.

Courses are run by the Met Office upon request, to fit in with clients' training schedules. Find out more and register your interest on our Training for the Energy Industry pages.

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